

each person does his/her small part, then what is right can be accomplished. Ms. Bush has never given any of her staff the luxury of saying, It can't be done.

When not helping Job Corps youth, Ms. Bush volunteers for a host of other worthy causes. Over two decades of service, she has contributed to the Houston Inter Faith Hunger Coalition, the Riverside Health Clinic Advisory Board, Twilight Chapter No. 393 Order of the Eastern Star Prince Hall Masons, the Dodson Elementary Advisory Group, the United Methodist Church Conference of Church and Society, and the Texas Conference of Churches. She serves as a precinct judge and a member of the Texas Democratic Executive Committee from Precinct No. 247.

The mother of a grown son and daughter, Ms. Bush enjoys her grandchildren and 150 foster children.

I am proud to call Madgelean Bush my friend and congratulate her on becoming JACS National Volunteer of the Year.

#### TRIBUTE TO ANNE MARIE FOY

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 17, 1996*

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Anne Marie Foy, a student at Cor Jesu Academy who was recently awarded a Voice of Democracy Scholarship from the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Ms. Foy's essay was one chosen as a national winner from over 116,000 submitted. The contest theme this year was "Answering America's Call" and I have included her winning essay below.

Good morning friends. I come today to speak with you about an issue that is both very dear to my heart and extremely vital to our nation's well-being. I speak about our answer as citizens to America's call. Today I want to take a moment to reflect on this call and to see it in its fullness, as a necessary element of our personal democracy. I hope to inflame your American passions with these few words. In fact, I dream to awaken everything about you that defines you as an American citizen.

In the past, to be an American was to determine your own destiny. It was to have a voice in your government and to take a considerable role in the governing of yourself and of your community. Never before in the history of the modern world had autonomy been so real, so tangible, and so evident. It was our political pluralism, the sovereign contract with our government as a democratic people, and our rights to assemble and disagree with our governing figures that united us as America. It was our political views that we transformed into civic activism and our personal involvement with the government that made us strong. The freedom we enjoyed as empowered citizens of this democratic nation led us to be one of the great superpowers of the world. We had found our strength as a country in our reply to the great American call.

The truest beauty of America is her people. Under a democratic government each individual enjoys protected rights and liberties, but this political system is dependent on civic activism. Thus to enjoy your political rights, you must fulfill your responsibilities as a citizen and accept a political role. We as Americans are owners of a political mecha-

nism designed to pursue justice, yet somehow in contemporary American society we managed to misplace the operations manual and have forgotten how to keep this beautiful machine working. If we are a government of the people, why are the people so upset at the government? In order to look at the real root problems we must first quiet our partisan babble, we must calm our nationalistic frustrations, we must look fearlessly at ourselves and then we must listen. Listening for our genuine voice is the first step. It will require patience and integrity and ultimately it will lead to an answer. How do you reply to this democratic call?

You must first reply through education. We as citizens must become knowledgeable of our history, our laws, and our government structure. If we are not educated, these institutions will cease to exist. We must strive to be aware of current issues, and how our government is responding to them. We as United States citizens are the government. We cannot shut our eyes to what our representatives are doing.

Education must be followed with action. A democratic state is dependent on this integrity. Whether we sit in on city council meetings, write letters to our government officials, or protest against things we view unjust, we must reply to the American call. If we feel far from Washington D.C. or detached from government, then we should rise up and demand straightforward dialogue. We must get past this glossy, polished, television image of the government. For we are the government. We are real. We are not polished. We are human. We have mentally separated ourselves from the government in this country. Government officials are no longer extensions of the people but, professional television personas. If we are upset with public officials, then we must vote them out of office. If we are tired of corrupt politicians, then we must speak with honesty ourselves and elect honest citizens. If we are exasperated with government programs, then we must take our seat on planning committees.

In a world where so many fought and died for their independence, for their freedom, for their autonomy, America and her people should stand as an encouraging light and example. We have so many brilliant minds, and caring hearts, and noble spirits, and yet America seems lost, somewhat bewildered about her path, her future. We are her future. Our parents, our children, our countrymen, and our very selves, we are the ones that must decide her path. First we must hear the call and then as Americans, boldly and courageously, we must answer.

#### THE MARCH OF THE LIVING PROGRAM

HON. HARRY JOHNSTON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 17, 1996*

Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, April 16 marks Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, on which we pay tribute to the memory of the 6 million Jews who died in concentration camps during World War II and take pride in programs, such as the March of the Living, which educate new generations on the Holocaust.

I was first apprised of this program by my good friend, Ernest Goldblum of Delray Beach, FL, who has worked with great love to promote this international program. Since its inception in 1988, over 20,000 high school students of Jewish heritage have traveled to var-

ious countries to visit concentration camps and witness the gas chambers, crematoria, and stockpiles of clothing and shoes left behind by the victims of the Holocaust. This important program provides young students from around the world with the opportunity to come together to learn of their ancestors' contributions, the atrocities committed against them, and the triumph of the Jewish Nation to survive and create their own state—the State of Israel.

The March of the Living Program is a compelling program that fosters a deeper understanding of the Holocaust, reminds us of the dangers of complacency, and commemorates what happened during World War II and the human spirit that triumphs with the Jewish Nation. I am encouraged by the statements made by countries, such as Austria, who have expressed an interest in participating in the March of the Living Program in the future.

#### SIKH NATION CELEBRATES ITS 297TH BIRTHDAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 17, 1996*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on April 13, 1996 the Sikh nation celebrated its 297th birthday. Sikhs call this day Vaisaakhi Day. It was on Vaisaakhi Day in 1699 that the tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, baptized the Sikhs into nationhood. Sikhs refer to their nation as the Khalsa Panth.

Since becoming a nation, Sikhs have experienced periods of great prosperity and periods of immense, brutal repression. Sikhs ruled Punjab from 1710 to 1716 and again from 1765 to 1849, establishing an enlightened form of government that recognized the equality of all citizens regardless of religious affiliation or social class standing. Sikhs have also persevered through periods of immeasurable oppression from Mogul invaders who desecrated the holiest of Sikh shrines, the Golden Temple in Amritsar and who slaughtered Sikhs who refused to deny their faith. Throughout their entire history Sikhs have persisted in the command given to them by Guru Gobind Singh to stand up against tyranny and oppression no matter where it exist.

Today Sikhs find themselves again standing up against tyranny and oppression. This time the oppressor is the Government of India. Indian forces have murdered over 150,000 Sikhs since 1984. In June 1984 the Golden Temple was again desecrated, this time by the Indian military. In that assault, over 20,000 Sikhs were killed. In November 1984, over 40,000 Sikhs throughout India were killed by mobs instigated to murder Sikhs by leading members of the ruling Congress (I) party. According to prominent human rights activists in the Sikh homeland, the number of Sikhs who have been "disappeared" or illegally killed in "fake encounters" may be over 100,000. One Sikh human rights activist, Jaswant Singh Khaira, was abducted by Indian police on September 7, 1995 after he released a report showing that the Indian regime has abducted, tortured, murdered and cremated over 25,000 Sikhs. On October 19, 1995, 65 Members of the Congress sent a letter to Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao demanding